

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 40-50, and 53-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17 and 22 are amended to replace the term "means" with the term "device." No new matter is added.

I. Claims 17 and 22, and the corresponding arguments in the September 20 Amendment, are directed to a single heating device (as opposed to a single heating means).

Section III. B. of the September 20 Amendment argues that US 011 does not teach or suggest every feature of claims 17 and 22 because "US 011 does not teach or suggest the sealed container or the single heating means required by claims 17 and 22" (emphasis added). However, amended claims 17 and 22 recite a single heating device (and not a single heating means). For clarity, below is a revision of the argument from Section III. B. of the September 20 Amendment, in which the term "means" is replaced with the term "device."

Claims 17 and 22 require a sealed container containing an organic compound/dyestuff having sublimation properties and an affinity for a resin of a molded resin article to be coated/colored and the molded resin article. See the specification at p. 42, lines 20-24, and Fig. 2(b). In contrast, US 011 requires an unsealed treatment enclosure so that the vapor can be circulated into the treatment enclosure, and so that the plastic surface is introduced into and taken out of the treatment enclosure. See col. 2, lines 58-61, col. 3, lines 22-24, and col. 3, lines 7-10. Thus, US 011 fails to teach or suggest a sealed container, as required by claims 17 and 22. In fact, one skilled in the art would interpret US 011's disclosure as teaching away from a sealed enclosure, as US 011 requires an unsealed enclosure.

Claims 17 and 22 require a single heating device for sublimating the organic compound/dye stuff, for depositing the vapor of the organic compound/dyestuff on the surface of the molded resin article, and for allowing the organic compound/dyestuff to penetrate/disperse into the molded resin article. See the specification at p. 45, lines 7-10. In

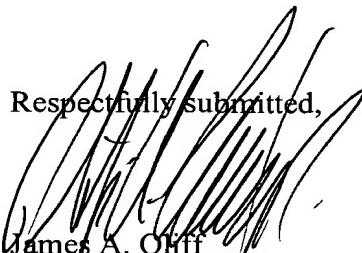
contrast, US 011 requires that the organic compound is sublimated by a first heating **device** (a liquid bath), and that the vapor is deposited on the article by a second heating **device** (a treatment enclosure containing a thermostat). See col. 2, lines 58-61, col. 3, lines 22-24, and Example 1. Thus, US 011 fails to teach or suggest a single heating **device**, as required by claims 17 and 22. In fact, one skilled in the art would interpret US 011's disclosure as teaching away from a single heating **device**, as US 011 requires multiple heating **device**.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, and in view of the September 20 Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 40-50, and 53-57 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. O'Neill
Registration No. 27,075

Philip A. Caramanica, Jr.
Registration No. 51,528

JAO:PAC

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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